

**Opening Statement of the Honorable Ed Whitfield**  
**Subcommittee on Energy and Power**  
**Markup of Committee Print that includes the following titles: Title I, Modernizing and**  
**Protecting Infrastructure, Title II, 21st Century Workforce, Title III, Energy Security and**  
**Diplomacy, and Title IV, Energy Efficiency and Accountability**  
**July 22, 2015**

*(As Prepared for Delivery)*

Today we commence the subcommittee markup of our first piece of major bipartisan energy legislation since 2007. This discussion draft includes a host of important policy updates that would serve to enhance America's energy security while creating jobs and lowering prices for consumers. The process is still an ongoing one, and I look forward to making this bill even stronger in the weeks ahead. I would like to thank all those who are contributing to this effort, and especially Mr. Rush.

As we have learned in our seven hearings on this discussion draft, much of the nation's energy policy dates back to the 1970s and is rooted in assumptions of scarcity that are no longer relevant in light of rising domestic energy production and declining imports. Parts of our energy policy are out of date and it is beginning to hold back progress.

Fortunately, there is bipartisan support for comprehensive changes to existing laws to better reflect the realities of 2015 and beyond and we have been working with our Democratic colleagues on the Committee to do so. The Committee Print before us today is reflective of the accomplishments and compromises agreed upon at this stage. This includes streamlining the cumbersome process for approving the much-needed infrastructure projects necessary to handle our growing natural gas supply. Procedurally, the bill solidifies the lead role of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in many interagency processes and strengthens its compliance provisions. The bill also updates energy workforce training programs to better reflect those career paths in greatest demand and to make the energy sector more inclusive.

Our growing domestic energy supply also brings with it new opportunities for energy diplomacy to support our foreign policy goals and enhance our standing in the world. Our allies have made clear that they welcome a greater role for America in global energy markets. While the bill does not presently include language to expedite the export of liquefied natural gas, there are provisions to improve planning with our neighbors in Canada and Mexico and foster the dialogue among allies that will help the U.S. transition into a global energy superpower.

On the electricity front, the bill contains provisions to make our electricity supply more reliable and resilient while keeping it as affordable as possible. There are also provisions to minimize the risk of damage to the grid from both natural and man-made threats, including cyber threats, and evaluating a strategic transformer reserve.

The bill also addresses energy efficiency, including measures to reduce energy use at federal facilities. It also has an important compromise measure to delay the problematic gas furnace efficiency standard.

There are additional items under discussion that I hope we can agree upon and add to the final version. For example, I would like to repeal the ill-advised and unworkable prohibition on the use of fossil fuels in federal buildings by 2030 and I've worked with Congressman Welch on language to repeal and replace it with something more reasonable. I am committed to working

on measures to help ensure that there is sufficient baseload capacity and a diversity of generation sources. I would also like to see measures requiring FERC to study the adverse impact of major federal rules on electricity reliability, which I consider to be a serious and growing problem. Additionally, I would like to continue to work towards language to ensure that building codes are cost-effective and achievable.

Overall, we have a comprehensive bipartisan draft bill before us, but continuing discussions are necessary to allow for the right policies to be put into place. This bill is the first step towards achieving that goal.

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